



# Preparing the Laboratory for the future

October 11, 2019

Los Alamos National Laboratory hired more than 1,000 brand new employees in the fiscal year that ended last month, the highest rate of hiring in at least 30 years. We are recruiting the next generation of leaders not just in science, technology and engineering but across the whole range of our operations.

But to support these new employees as they carry out our important missions we also have to update our infrastructure. The flip side of reaching our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a Laboratory last year is that we have a lot of facilities that have served our country well but need to be renovated or replaced. In fact, half of our buildings were built before 1970.

We are in the midst of a five-year, \$5 billion site revitalization program that could eventually increase to roughly \$10 billion over the next decade.

The investment will support our mission by upgrading the cooling systems for the next generation of supercomputers, build new classified and unclassified office buildings, upgrade existing facilities to accommodate new activities, strengthen our physical security protections, and support our national security mission.

Some of that reflects the investments that are being made in our production responsibilities at the TA-55 facility, but the improvements at the Laboratory cover everything from parking lots and parking garages to roads and office buildings.

## Broader than Laboratory infrastructure

As well as needing a place to park and an office to work in, the people that we hire also need places to live, shop and send their kids to school as they build a life in Northern New Mexico, so it's important that we have strong engagement with the communities around us.

We don't build housing or public roads, or manage the schools, but we want to be part of conversations on these issues with communities as they make their plans for the future, and to help in ways that we can that benefit the region and the Laboratory. It's only right that our surrounding communities should know about our hiring and building plans so they can factor that into their own planning.

We will continue to support local schools, form additional partnerships with our regional institutions of higher education, spin technologies out of the Laboratory, help grow the business community, and most importantly, hire locally.

We are actively engaging with our local communities on issues like housing availability, enhanced transportation, quality K through 12 and higher education, and the lifestyle that comes with living in this beautiful part of the country.

We're committed to being as transparent as we can with all the communities around us so that people can understand our plans and why they're important to the region and the nation.

The Laboratory cannot be successful without our local communities, and I want to reiterate the Laboratory and Lab operator Triad's commitment that we will continue to be a good neighbor in Northern New Mexico.

—Thom Mason

Director, Los Alamos National Laboratory

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